

Council of the District of Columbia
Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs
Notice of Public Hearing
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20004

COUNCILMEMBER MURIEL BOWSER, CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Announces A Public Hearing

On

B18-42: Tenant Protection Act of 2009
B18-92: Omnibus Rental Housing Amendment Act of 2009

On

Thursday, June 4, 2009
10:30 a.m.
Room 500
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Councilmember Muriel Bowser, Chair of the Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs, announces a Public Hearing on B18-42: Tenant Protection Act of 2009, and B18-92: Omnibus Rental Housing Amendment Act of 2009. The hearing will be held on Thursday, June 4, 2009 at 10:30 a.m., in the Council Chamber, Room 500, of the John Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.

B18-42: Tenant Protection Act of 2009 would prohibit the Mayor from closing a property for any reason unless he has first made a finding that the condition of the property threatens the life, health or safety of the occupants and it is impossible or impracticable to fix the housing violations using the repair fund.

B18-92: Omnibus Rental Housing Amendment Act of 2009 would amend our rental housing laws in numerous ways. First, the bill would allow a tenant to institute an action in Landlord and Tenant Court for violations of the housing code so long as the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs ("DCRA") has failed to either inspect or provide an inspection report. Currently, this court is open only to landlords. Second, the bill would require DCRA to conduct regular, proactive inspections of each residential unit in the District every two years. Third, the bill would require that all documents that get sent to the landlord, including enforcement notices, would be delivered to affected tenants, or posted in public areas if more than one unit is affected. Current law requires that inspections reports be provided to the affected tenants. Fourth, the bill would create certain priorities and requirements for use of the Nuisance

Abatement Fund. Lastly, the bill would provide party status to tenants of buildings subject to condemnation proceedings in a manner similar to the building owners.

Members of the public are invited to testify. Testimony may be limited to 3 minutes per witness and 5 minutes for a panel. Those wishing to testify should contact Davida Crockett of the Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs via email at dcrockett@dccouncil.us, or by phone at (202) 741-0898, by Tuesday, June 2, 2009. Witnesses should bring 15 copies of their written testimony to the hearing.

Members of the public may submit written testimony which will be made part of the official record. Copies of written statements should be submitted to Ms. Cynthia Brock-Smith, Secretary to the Council, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 5, Washington, DC 20004, no later than 5:30 p.m., Thursday, June 11, 2009.